

AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application:

1. (original) A pharmaceutical preparation for hearing impairment, which comprises a hepatocyte growth factor (HGF) gene as an active ingredient.
2. (original) A pharmaceutical preparation for hearing impairment, which comprises a plasmid of a hepatocyte growth factor (HGF) gene as an active ingredient.
3. (original) A pharmaceutical preparation for hearing impairment, which comprises a virus envelope vector encapsulating a hepatocyte growth factor (HGF) gene or its plasmid as an active ingredient.
4. (original) The pharmaceutical preparation for hearing impairment according to claim 3, wherein the virus is one member selected from the group consisting of Sendai virus, retrovirus, adenovirus, adeno-associated virus, herpes virus, vaccinia virus, pox virus and influenza virus.
5. (currently amended) The pharmaceutical preparation for hearing impairment according to ~~any one of claims 1 to 4~~ claim 1, wherein the hearing impairment is deafness.
6. (currently amended) The pharmaceutical preparation for hearing impairment according to ~~any one of claims 1 to 5~~ claim 1, which is an agent for preventing hearing impairment.

7. (currently amended) The pharmaceutical preparation for hearing impairment according to ~~any one of claims 1 to 5~~ claim 1, which is a therapeutic or ameliorating agent for hearing impairment.

8. (original) Use of a hepatocyte growth factor (HGF) gene or a plasmid of a hepatocyte growth factor (HGF) gene for producing a pharmaceutical preparation for hearing impairment.

9. (original) A method of treating hearing impairment, which comprises administering, to a patient with hearing impairment, a hepatocyte growth factor (HGF) gene or a plasmid of a hepatocyte growth factor (HGF) gene in an amount effective for the treatment.